

# A Shakespearean Evening

By Mr. Allan Wilkie, C.B.E.

ON Sunday evening, February 10, a special Shakespearean evening is announced for 2YA, Wellington. On that occasion listeners far and wide will be privileged to hear an address on Shakespeare, the greatest dramatist and poet of all time, by Mr. Allan Wilkie, C.B.E., the eminent Shakespearean actor. His Majesty the King thought fit to honour Mr. Wilkie with the decoration of Commander of the British Empire in recognition of his unparalleled work in producing Shakespearean plays in Australia and New Zealand, year in and year out, winning plaudits from press and public alike with his own brilliant attainments and the admirable work of his talented company. For eight years Mr. Wilkie has toured the Dominion and the Commonwealth with his Shakespearean Company, playing in every considerable town in both countries. During that period Mr. Wilkie has produced no fewer than 26 of Shakespeare's 37 plays, taking leading parts, in company with Miss Hunter-Scott, his gifted leading lady, in each production. He has found his reward in the testimony of educational authorities, of the principals of schools, of the press, and of thousands of letters, that his work has been of the greatest value educationally to the rising generation, and culturally to the community as a whole. But for Mr. Wilkie's productions Shakespeare would have been a dead letter in the theatre in Australia and New Zealand, except for isolated performances of one or two plays in the principal cities.

MR ALLAN WILKIE has an abiding admiration for Shakespeare's works, born of a deep study of the great dramatic genius in all his varied phases, in all his wonderful pageantry of

words and philosophy. Herein lies the secret of Mr. Wilkie's devotion to so exacting a task as the popularising of Shakespeare—an undertaking which he has carried out to an extent which has

rendered his name imperishable in the annals of the stage in this quarter of the globe.



MR. ALLAN WILKIE IN CHARACTER.

THE programme associated with Mr. Wilkie's address on Shakespeare has been selected specially for the occasion, with due regard to its appropriateness. Mr. Dennis Barry, the gifted young actor who has previously toured New Zealand with Mr. Wilkie's organisation, and who is possessed of a cultured, tuneful voice, will sing "O Mistress Mine" (from "Twelfth Night"), by Rodger Quilter, and "When That I was a Tiny Little Boy" (from "Twelfth Night"), a traditional song. He will be accompanied on the piano by Mr. Bradshaw-Major, for several years musical director for Mr. Wilkie, with violin obligatos by Miss Godson, also a member of Mr. Wilkie's orchestra. Mr. Bradshaw-Major (piano) and Miss Godson (violin) will also contribute "Henry the Eighth Dances" suite (by Edward German), in two parts, "Barcarolle," from "The Merchant of Venice," and "Prelude No. 2" from "The Merchant of Venice" (by Sir F. Ross).

ALSO assisting on the programme will be Mr. Roy Hill (tenor), and Miss Mollie Fenton (contralto). Mr. Hill's items will comprise three Shakespearean songs: "Sigh No More, Ladies," "It was a Lover and His Lass," and "Who is Sylvia?" Miss Fenton will sing "The Willow Song" from "Othello," "The Lawn is White as Driven Snow," from the "Winter's Tale," and "Take, Oh, Take Those Lips Away," from "Measure for Measure." A brilliant selection of recorded music, written for Shakespeare's plays will complete the programme.

Advertising on the Air sense of intrusion would be insupportable.

(Continued from front page.)

Let us take another parallel—the case of a church with a not very rich congregation which cannot afford the best of everything, either in the way of furniture or music. Suppose somebody were to come along and say, "You shall have the best choir, the best organ and the most eloquent preacher that money can provide, if the end of each service that it has been provided by such and such a stores." Is it conceivable that the congregation would not find such a thing intolerable? The question has only to be stated in order to be answered. The

IN America, where there is no monopoly and where anyone may set up a broadcasting organisation, the situation is different, and there the selling of programme time may actually benefit listeners by providing them with better programmes than the broadcasting company could afford. There the peculiar sense of intimacy which exists between the B.B.C. and its listeners is absent, and so cannot be damaged. But with us there is no form of entertainment which could be provided by any commercial organisation which the B.B.C. could not afford to employ and pay for itself.

No, broadcasting time is too sacred a trust for anyone who holds it and values it to be willing to hand over to someone with only a private purpose to serve. The silent brotherhood of listeners, so utterly and completely separated and isolated, and yet so mysteriously linked and united, develops its own habits, its own particular qualities, its own sensitiveness. The person who speaks through the microphone has a far more critical and sensitive audience than he who speaks from a platform. He is not shouting to a crowd, but speaking in the ear of individual listeners; and in this intimacy the smallest mannerism or characteristic may jar. It is this reality of contact between the broadcaster and his listener that is so remarkable an attribute of the service. It is this sense of reality which would be most marred by the fact that it was not his own thought or emotion that caused the singer to be singing or the speaker to be talking, but that the fundamental and originating cause of the contact was that some third person wished us to buy bread made with his patent flour. If the B.B.C. departed from its present policy it would not be merely time that it was selling; it would be selling a spiritual reality, which of its very nature is among the things that cannot be bought or sold without some degree of degradation to all concerned.—F.Y.

## Medical Conference

### Proceedings to be Broadcast

ARRANGEMENTS have been made for the broadcasting of the proceedings attending upon the opening of the Medical Conference at 8 o'clock on the evening of February 19. A civic reception will be tendered to the delegates, of whom over 200 will be present. Dr. J. S. Elliott, of Wellington, will be inducted as President, and deliver his presidential address, which will be of great popular interest. It is expected that the Right Hon. the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health will speak, and also that an eminent English surgeon will take part in the proceedings.

Following on the broadcast of these proceedings the programme will be completed by an hour of musical items.

THERE was no general meeting of the Amateur Radio Society of Wellington this month. The first meeting of the year is fixed for early in February.

A LONG law suit has settled the matter of the invention of the magnetic reaction circuit, in the announcing that the honour is that of Dr. Lee De Forest.

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